

# STOP PRESS -- URGENT PARTNER ALERT

Monday, July 9, 2007

## WEEK OF JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> -- TWO BASES HIT WITH HUGE CATASTROPHIES

### CHURCH ARMY ALIQUIPPA FLOODED

#### "Uncommon Grounds Café" Closed While Volunteers Clean Up Mess & Encourage Town

On Thursday, July 5 a combination of torrential rains and clogged city storm drains caused a flash flood in the old commercial section of Aliquippa on Franklin Avenue. Mud and sludge covered the beautiful first floor of the Uncommon Grounds Café. As much as four feet of water stood in the basement. After a few hours, the water found its way to the Ohio River and Aliquippa was left with a layer of mud and a horrendous clean up effort.

Volunteers were at the Cafe when it happened and were able to rescue much on the first floor. More volunteers have been coming and through prayerful help and financial gifts things are beginning to look up. **Lots of prayers and help will be needed for the next few weeks of clean up.**

Much of our equipment was lost. Some of it was commercial grade and very expensive. Nearly all the food inventory was lost and the Café has to be closed disrupting our café ministry for a number of weeks. For sanitation reasons, the carpet may need to be replaced. In a few days we will see how much of the drywall needs replacing. It is still uncertain what the financial loss will be. The latest revision of estimated damage

is now about \$20,000. That number has been reduced greatly from first estimations after volunteers have salvaged much and donations have replaced some equipment. Gifts have covered about half of the financial losses already!

Many stores and businesses in Aliquippa suffered even greater financial losses. Church Army **Evangelists John Stanley and Nancy O'Leary** are on the streets encouraging business owners. We are also sending them volunteer teams to help clean up. This has become a great opportunity to serve others and share the gospel their in time of need.

#### IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION!

##### REGARDING THE LAMB CENTER, PAGE 1 ARTICLE

The Lamb Center is not one of Church Army's Bases of Evangelism. It is an outreach of Truro Church, one of our partner churches. The current Director of the Lamb Center is a Church Army evangelist, Captain Bob Wyatt. We are delighted to deepen our partnership with Truro through Bob's leadership role. We are also delighted to share with you what God is doing to transform lives where one of our evangelists is involved.

### CHURCH ARMY GULF COAST AND PARTNER MINISTRY, GOD'S KATRINA KITCHEN, FORCED TO RELOCATE

#### Relief Workers Committed To Maintain Momentum In Face Of Setback

On July 2, the Gulfport City Council denied the extension of a permit to allow God's Katrina Kitchen (GKK) to operate on the property from which they have served the community for the past year. Many council members have expressed their gratitude for all that GKK is doing to rebuild homes, feed the hungry, and minister to the local community in the name of Christ.

**Years of relief work remain in order to restore the community.** However, political pressures caused the council not to renew the permit. Our staging ground for our volunteer relief effort must now relocate for the second time since the storm.

God's Katrina Kitchen is receiving offers from churches and private entities to set up shop as the July 31 deadline approaches. Because of our past experience in relocating we know this move will cost at least \$25,000.

James and Mary Giles and Rolin Bruno are Church Army leaders helping to operate God's Katrina Kitchen and planting the Church Army Base of Evangelism on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. They and the GKK volunteer staff are currently housing and deploying 200 volunteer workers each week. The Kitchen is providing over a thousand meals daily to visiting workers and Katrina survivors. Church Army is working with hurting locals trapped in addiction. This setback has not daunted their spirits, but the next month or more of disruption will hinder their ability to serve those in need.

***I'm grateful for the opportunity to pass along to you these late breaking developments. We are counting on your prayers and please send your most generous donation.***

***Steve Brightwell***

Please make your check out to *Church Army USA* and sent to: Church Army USA

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**THANK YOU FOR HELPING!**